Monday, February 7, 2011 | 14 sections / Vol. 26 / No. 67 / P14 | www.inquirer.net

Across / A18
Noy cousin, ally's brod feud over Clark airport

Learning / G1
Little known tale about a president launches WWII True Stories tilt

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



We're fall guys–Rosales

PNP officer denies link to car theft

SAYING THEY were being set up as fall guys, Philippine National Police Director Roberto "Boysie" Rosales yesterday challenged the Armed Forces of the Philippines to prove that he and another police official were coddling a notorious car theft gang.



DFA orders Cimatu: Skip Egypt and return home

House body to ask Heidi on $5M in UN funds



Valentine's also for heart's sake

Another suspect in Ortega slay gives up, names masterminds

Guardians or opportunists?

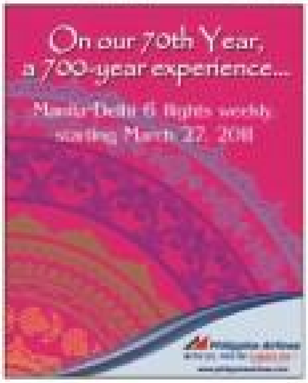
COMMENTARY

US, Egypt officials plan Mubarak exit

ANALYSIS



Finance expert at UP's helm



Second FrontPage

WEATHER FORECAST

6/42 LOTTO: 29 30 | 4 29 | 4 29

SUERTRES: 7 8 8 | 3 5 4

2 4 4

SUPERLOTTO 6/49: 10 14 23 37 47 48

P66,410,373.60

Warrant vs Ping stands, say senators

By TJ Burgonio

LEGAL luminaries in the Senate agree that the secretary of justice is "technically correct" when she says that the arrest warrant against fugitive Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson still stands despite a recent Court of Appeals (CA) ruling dismissing double murder charges against him.

[illegible]

Taiwan raps PH over deportations

[illegible]

Just another day for P-Noy on Tuesday

By TJ Burgonio

[illegible]

Gov't concerned over split in MILF, says negotiator









Look younger, more beautiful!





Anarchy reigns, say Pinoys out of Egypt

Culinary icon to be feted



P-Noy names Ogie, others to posts

Antonio Hidalgo, writer, publisher, teacher, Inquirer monitor, dies at 67

Workshop to 'fix' your heart

TO GIVE unconditionally without enabling a dependent relationship is true and liberating love. Learn how to heal your heart and reclaim your self-worth, making your heart whole again.

Brahma Kumaris invites the public to a workshop-lecture-meditation titled "Heart Fix." It will be held on Sunday, Feb. 13, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Brahma Kumaris Retreat Center located at 3028 Magallanes Drive, Tagaytay City.

For details, call (844)381-3128 or [illegible].

Also check out www.bkwsu[illegible].

House body to ask Heidi on $5M in UN funds

Another UN checklist

DFA orders Cimatu: Skip Egypt and return home

Funds accounted for

Immediate replacement

Replace Cimatu

Protect whistle-blowers

Last 8 of 'Morong 43' detainees still in jail

The Daily Gospel

DENR moves to deliver a cleaner Manila Bay

By Kristine L. Alave

UP engineers test landslide sensing system

By Kristine L. Alave

CLIMATE CHANGE

Asia faces migration crisis

[illegible]

High degree of risk

[illegible]

Glimpse into future

[illegible]

Fake shoes seized

[illegible]

'34th Miner' wins Chile Embassy poetry tilt



We're fall guys–Rosales

AFP: Not our report

Bigger challenge

PNP probe

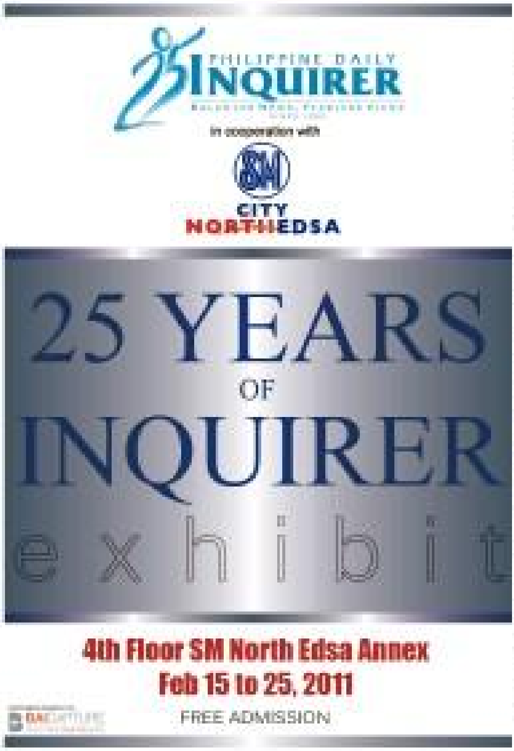
Validation needed

Caspan's denial

Guardians or opportunists?







Another suspect in Ortega slay gives up, names masterminds

Finance expert at UP's helm

Massacre in Camsur: 6 killed, 1 wounded

INQUIRER

OPINION

Egypt on Edsa

EDITORIAL



Kid gloves for Garcia, mailed fist for Lacson

AS I SEE IT



Neal H. Cruz

Support

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

Back to the RH Bill

SOUNDING BOARD



Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

'Mulligan from God'

REVEILLE



Ramon J. Farolan

Obituary for Juana Change

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Noralyn Mustafa

The Arabs and the democratic choice

WORLD VIEW



Shashi Tharoor

Drowning in corruption

LETTERS

LTO's Torres in a mess for not doing job

Why Makati mayor turned Robredo down

PDI wrong on BI duties

US, Egypt officials plan Mubarak exit

Counterattack

Increasingly isolated

US lays down policy

Valentine's also for heart's sake

Physical inactivity

Meatless day

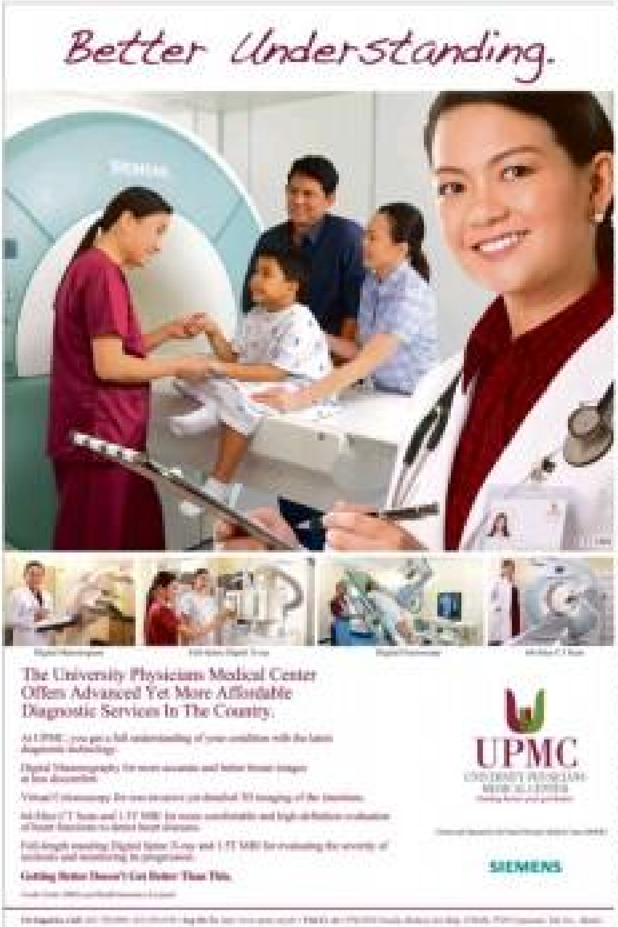
Healthy lifestyle

Assistant Editor: Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Noy cousin, ally's brod feud over airport

CLARK FREEPORT—A brother of Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office Chair Margarita Juico has pursued a P5-billion project to develop the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) here on the heels of a syndicated estafa case he filed against a cousin of President Aquino after their tie-up for the project had gone sour.



Vizcaya road project defies P-Noy order on billboards

SANTA FE, Nueva Vizcaya—A road project being undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in this mountain town has defied President Aquino's order that bans the printing of names of government officials on project billboards.



A PROJECT billboard in Barangay Tactac in Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, credits Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla.



‘No ifs and buts’ on ARMM polls, says expert

'The 'default mode' should be ARMM elections as scheduled. No ifs and no buts'

ARMM exec orders prompt help for Sulu flood victims



PEOPLE wade through the flooded streets of Jolo on Friday following heavy rains that caused flash flooding and affected thousands of residents.

Negros dads urge ban on tree cutting for charcoal

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

University watched as LGU steps up crackdown on drugs

By Maricar Cinco
Inquirer Southern Luzon

Vizcaya execs grill Australian mining firm







FREE MINING

'Kisaw' festival of arts opens in Dumaguete

Life-sustaining

2009 launch

Performances



Palawan sees new agreement on Malampaya

34 endangered turtles rescued in south Palawan



Soldiers face criminal raps for causing 'trauma' on girl

Isabela farmers protest bioethanol project

Board orders curbs on sugar smuggling by checking premises



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MEGAWORLD

Aplus Metro

Editor: Abelardo S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

Abalos offers P1M for aide's killer

P-Noy denounces murder, puts Robredo in charge of probe

MANDALUYONG Mayor Benhur Abalos has offered a P1 million reward for any information leading to the arrest of the man who shot dead his top advisor on Friday night.

Close ties



FERRY SERVICE INTERRUPTION

Illegal vendors irk traders

By Jaymee T. Gamil

Arrest of minors triggers debate

By Matthew C. Carvajal

METROBRIEFS

MMDA axes enforcer

Barangay officials charged

'Put CCTVs in bus stops'

Water leaks in Quezon City

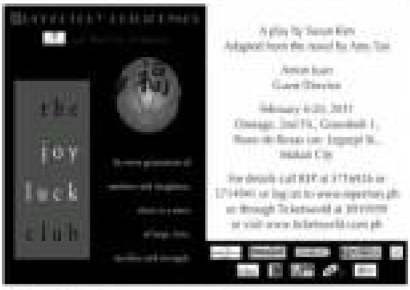
Street turned into garage, parking area

Traffic light needs to be fixed

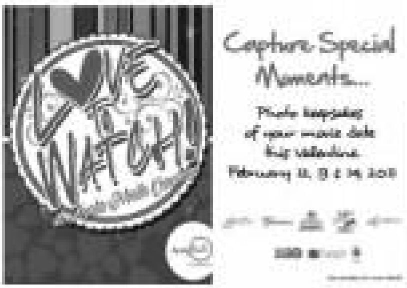
Police escorts replace siren

Neglected road in QC

Stubborn 'kuliglig' drivers defy city government









Abalos offers P1M...

From page A1

Police sketch

The WORLD

White House backs gradual transition led by Suleiman

Muslim Brotherhood joins talks with Mubarak camp

CAIRO—Egypt's influential Muslim Brotherhood agreed to join talks with President Hosni Mubarak's embattled regime on Sunday, a historic turning point in relations between the state and the banned group.



A DEFIANT protester shouts anti-Mubarak slogans in front of tanks at Tahrir Square in Cairo on Feb. 5.

US, Russia activate nuke arms treaty

WORLDBRIEFS

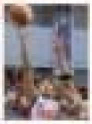
Cameron hits British 'multiculturalism'

Conciliatory Bashir vows freedoms in Sudan

Hackers gained access to Nasdaq systems

Fresh Thai-Cambodia clash kills 1

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Slammers nail 2nd title berth
/A28

SPORTS



■ Cleveland misery no longer has company
/A30

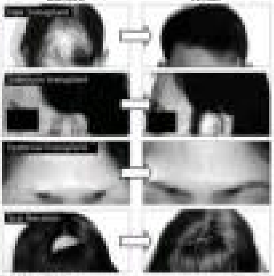


PFF gets ₱29.7M from int'l body

Aid includes $300,000 incentive

PHILIPPINE FOOTBALL is on a roll even off the pitch.



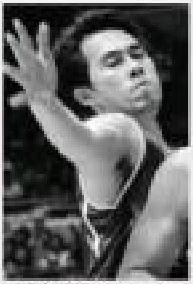


La Salle volleybelles thwart Lady Eagles





At just 28, Fonacier already multititled



Slammers nail 2nd title berth

Boot out Slingers in Bangkok



Tight PAL Interclub Men's tilt expected

Xavier dribblers sweep Tiong Lian elims



MVP commitment to TNT pays off

INSIDE SPORTS



Azkals now primed for Mongolia match

PFF gets P29.7-M assistance from Fifa

It all started with a Mouse and a Blur

ONE GAME AT A TIME





POC rallies behind rugby in SEA Games

Arnis, handball also eyed

Olympic sport

Wall climbing

Third straight victory for Barbosa



BARBOSA

Bike King series kickoff leg slated

House tries to sort out cycling row



TOLENTINO

St. Francis, PCCr near 3rd crowns

Harbour rules La Salle hoops



SPORTS



Cleveland misery no longer has company

Loss to Portland gives Cavs NBA-worst skid

Mystique, tradition all over Super Bowl as Steelers, Packers tangle

BUSINESS

SMC eyes venture with Citra, HK firm

Indicators

PESO-DOLLAR RATE Feb. 4, 2011 **43.770**

STOCK MARKET Feb. 4, 2011 ▼ **16.2**



Stocks seen to rise

Three-way partnership to bid for PPP projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN MIGUEL Corp. is forming a three-way partnership with Indonesian conglomerate Citra Lamtoro Gung Persada (Citra) and Star TollWay Corp. to merge local tollroad operations and create a stronger entity that can actively seek big-ticket infrastructure projects under the public-private partnership (PPP) framework.

Oil depot near Manila Bay eyed

By Amy R. Remo

LOCAL AND foreign investors are planning to put up an oil storage hub within the Manila Bay area to provide an alternative to, or even a replacement for, the Pandacan oil depot in Manila.

IN THIS ISSUE

Golden Tee buzz

Biz Buzz
By the staff

ALL EYES will be on the old Hole No. 1 of the ultra-exclusive Manila Golf and Country Club where the fabled Golden Tee tournament begins tomorrow. [illegible]

Wanted: New SEC chair

[illegible]

Enough

[illegible]

Speaking of which…

[illegible]

SMC eyes . . .

Stocks . . .



Learning from Listening the Jollibee Way

PLDT serves a plate full of business solutions for the global player.





The Essential Partner



New Makati high-rise rewriting rule in high-end home security

Already redefining privileged living standards with everything in quality, luxury and service, The Grand Midori Makati has another symbol of excellence, one that every cosmopolitan homeowner only dreams of —security that can rival, or even surpass that of five-star luxury resorts.















1-bedroom unit at The Grand Midori Makati

BUSINESS

PH telecom companies facing tough challenges

By Paolo G. Montecillo

> "There's no longer such a thing as an average consumer. We have to break the market up into several averages"

Declining profit

Competition intensifies

Cutthroat pricing

Crime and banishment

Review of PH dig

New platform now widely used Europe, most of Asia, says GMA

gital television standard sought



RCBC posts 28% profit growth to ₱4.25B

PH telecom companies facing tough challenges ...

Nontraditional products

BUSINESS

National Competitiveness Council goes global

By Cesar B. Bautista

COMMENTARY

New benchmark

Improvements

Guiding principles

Collective action

BUSINESS

National Grid readies 30 power projects

Transmission line program to meet load growth

By Amy R. Remo

NATIONAL Grid Corporation of the Philippines, operator of the country's national transmission network, plans to implement more than 30 projects aimed at improving the system reliability between now and 2015.

According to NGCP documents, the transmission projects are those associated with the expansion or entry of a power plant; for network expansion needed to meet load growth; for network development needed to resolve congestion, and in compliance with requirements of the Grid Code.

"Projects intended to meet load growth and reliability requirements get high priority," the NGCP said in its draft Transmission Development Plan.

The generation-related transmission projects included the upgrading of the Bataan-Bay line; installation of a new 600 megavolt-ampere transformer at the Tayabas substation and a new line to serve the requirements of Quezon Power Philippines Ltd., and the reinforcement of the Ambuklao-Binga line in Luzon and Calong-Toledo-New Naga line in the Visayas.

NGCP has also identified seven load growth-driven projects nationwide, almost all of which were meant to provide additional transformer capacity to meet load growth from 2011 to 2015. Also included is a project to put up a new substation to serve as another delivery point to Metro Manila and relieve the Taytay substation.

To solve the problem of "congestion" or overloading, which often results in the tripping of power lines, NGCP plans to upgrade the capacities of the Ambuklao-Binga 230-kilovolt transmission line and construct the San Jose-Quezon Line 3.

Twenty-two more projects are also being prioritized by NGCP to ensure the reliability and quality of electricity being delivered to power customers.

Some of these reliability projects included the Dasmariñas substation expansion; Luzon voltage improvement; San Jose-Angat 115-kV line upgrading; Cebu-Mandaue-Lapu-lapu transmission line; Visayas substation reliability projects; Agus 6-Aurora 138-kV transmission line and the Tacurong-Sultan Kudarat 138-kV line project.

NGCP did not indicate in its Transmission Development Plan the planned investment for these priority projects. However, based on its earlier filing with the Energy Regulatory Commission, NGCP initially targeted to allocate P12 billion for its capital expenditure this year, P11.48 billion for 2012, P10.06 billion for 2013, P10.58 billion for 2014, and P7.74 billion for 2015.

Managing Convergence in 2011

PLDT transforms technology, people and organizations to meet the future

New technologies will change not only the way people communicate, but also the way industries do business.













China envoy allays Benguet farmers' import fears

Ambassador urges gov't to invest more in local agriculture



AMBASSADOR Liu Jianchao



BENGUET farmers have been affected by influx of Chinese goods.

Pangasinan gov't plants more mangroves

Citibank brings high-end service to Mindanao

Citigold Center first outside Metro Manila, fourth in the Philippines

By Judy Quiros
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—Citibank has brought its comprehensive wealth management services outside Metro Manila with the recent launch here of its Citigold Center, the fourth in the country and the first outside the capital.

Citigold services the affluent market. To qualify for the Citigold brand of service, individuals are required to have a minimum portfolio value of P4 million.

Citibank Country Head Sanjiv Vohra told reporters during the launching of Citigold at the Marco Polo Hotel here that Citibank had decided to bring the service to Davao because the Citi brand firm saw the city's huge potential.

"The Davao market is ready," he said.

He said Citibank—which established its mass service bank Citibank Savings here a few years ago—did a comprehensive study of the city's economic indicators for one year before it finalized the decision to bring in Citigold.

"We did a lot of homework before the investment," Vohra said.

He said the impressive growth of Citibank Savings Davao also contributed to its decision to bring in the service for the affluent market.

Vohra said Citibank was confident that with the support of its clients around the world, "Citigold can replicate that success here in Davao, a key area of growth for us."

Launched in 1986, Citigold is active in the most affluent markets in the Middle East and Asia and is also present in Australia and parts of North and South America.

With Citigold, clients get advice on Treasury securities, structured products, savings plans, mutual funds and bonds. They can also avail themselves of travel planning services.

Citibank Savings president Steve Jabson said that Citigold "has a very high standard but we are confident it will achieve its goal" in Davao.



Pangasinan gov't ...

From page B-8

Mangroves seedlings are grown at the provincial mangrove rehabilitation center and nursery in Barangay Arnedo in Bolinao town.

"We now have 70,000 seedlings available for distribution," Mayo said.

Recipients of seedlings included local governments, schools, barangay councils, church groups, fishermen and farmers' associations in the towns of Bolinao, Bani, Infanta, Anda, Dasol, Agno, Sual, Mangaldan, San Fabian and Lingayen and the cities of Alaminos and Dagupan.

Seedlings planted include bakawan, bungalon, tabi and pagatpat.









BUSINESS

PH misses 2010 mining investment target

Inflow reached $952.85M, short of $1.2-B goal

Prices of manufactured goods still on downtrend

Shipments to Japan up 23.2%

UCPB BALANCE SHEET

UCPB CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

UCPB CORPORATE OFFICES: 7907 Makati Avenue, Makati City 1200

Business

BDO to roll out retail investment plan

Bank aims to lure retirees, youngsters, OFWs to put in as low as P1,000/month

Megaworld investment in Binondo project hits ₱6B





Ayala Land seen exceeding ₱50-B property sales in 2011

Bullish on growth for Avida, Amaia segments

Gerry's Grill eyes overseas marts

Prices of manufactured …

Oil depot near Manila Bay eyed

Cebu Pacific hiring 75 pilots, 200 cabin crew

New employees needed to support 5-year expansion

By Paolo G. Montecillo

Japanese firms eye RP energy projects

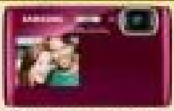
By Amy R. Remo

InfoTech



Nokia fights back with Ovi Store apps

Goings-on



Country's top compact camera

New iPhone, BlackBerry apps

Software provider's new website



DELL 1130 printer

Dell expands range of peripherals for small businesses



DELL M109s

Taking the smartphone experience a step up



SAMSUNG'S latest line of smartphones

Philips' PC monitors steal the thunder from CPUs



Business

Prices may surge on Egypt strife

Oil, food to spike as Mideast reels from spreading unrest

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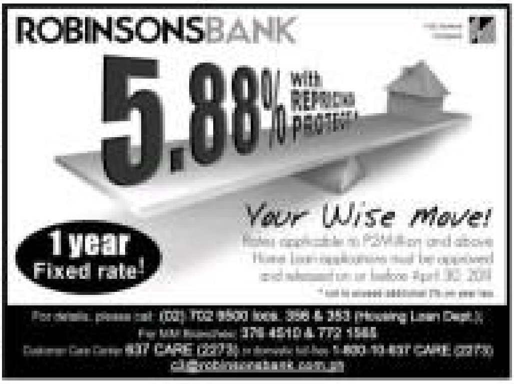
AP



Obama seeks common ground with business

[illegible]

Reuters







INVITATION TO BID

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PETRON

For Sale- Makati Office Space Petron Megaplaza Building

PETRON

For Sale- Makati Office Space Trafalgar Plaza Building

Grow your business leadership and beyond this February 2011

People, Events & Products

Bayad Center-Globe Telecom 2nd e-raffle

Product FILES



Great Cuts Angelo Justin: A cut above the rest

Picpa hosts strategy meeting of Asia Pacific accountants

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

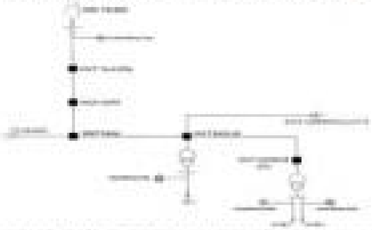
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

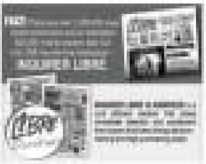
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING





NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that two (2) stubs of Agents' Provisional Receipts bearing Nos. 024881 - 024890 and 032211 - 32220 of the BPIMS Insurance Corporation has been reported lost.

OBITUARIES

MAJOR JOSE M. SULIT

Business

Wall Street expected to rally in week ahead

US equities may rise on upbeat signs



Eurozone to improve economic coordination

US unemployment rate drops

BUSINESS Monday

Logistics CEO braves whole new worlds



Pole vaulting in partnership with Korea

MAPping the Future
Cesar B. Bautista



Logistics CEO braves ...

Direction setting

Aggressive expansion



Advice, collaboration among what clients want

Chinoys dispel mystery of success in trade

Chinoys dispel mystery of success in trade

By Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—For 17 years, the Chinese-Filipino community here has been inviting reporters to announce activities for the Spring Festival or Lunar New Year.

But as the community got to know more about local Chinese-Filipinos, questions have drifted from the more cultural, such as those involving the festivities, to the economic.

As it turns out, Chinese-Filipinos have no such thing as a secret business formula for success.

If there were secrets, these would probably be rooted in their unique cultural heritage.

Chinese-Filipino elders and businessmen William Ang, for example, cites hard work.



CHINOY ELDERS (from left) William Ang, Charles Chang, Dennis Sy, Peter Ng and Mayor Mauricio Domogan

Ang used to be a photographer, taking snapshots of visiting tourists in the 1950s.

Like others in the trade, he would wait for clients at Burnham Park. But he didn't just settle on being a photographer at the park.

He aimed for something bigger.

Ang worked hard and eventually established his own studio to develop and print pictures.

"Being hard working and aiming for self-reliance are an integral part of Chinese culture," he says.

He also first wave of Chinese immigrants who came here in the early 1900s to help build what is now known as Kennon Road, hard work was their capital. Many of them stayed and married some locals after the road construction.

Hard work plus some skills, such as cooking, baking and vegetable farming, had helped the early Chinese survive and

Work hard, set goals, live below your means



MITSI, Rabbit mascot

succeed amid the odds, said Dr. Charles Chang and Katherine Benjamin-Chang in their 1997 book, "The Untold Story of Pioneers: The Ethnic Chinese in Baguio and in the Cordillera, Philippines."

Thriftiness is another virtue.

"If you earn a peso a day, make sure to spend only part of it and save the rest," says businessman Dennis Sy, president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce here.

Another factor is one's ability to set goals and see them through.

When he was forced to seek opportunities in Metro Manila in 1974 after his parents died, Peter Ng found himself working in a clothing factory.

But Ng didn't foresee himself as a mere employee all his life. He set a goal for himself, which was to establish his own business.

CHINOYS B2-5

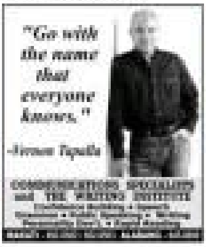
LIFESTYLE Arts & Books





"MARSHALL"

WHAT'S INSIDE





SPACE-SAVING WONDERS ONLY AT BSA TWIN TOWERS



Tagum City hosts 3rd International Strings of Unity Festival

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE 3RD Gandaa ng Pagkakaisa (Strings of Unity) international festival will be held in Tagum City, Feb. 12-19, and at the UP College of Music, Feb. 21-24.

Sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), through the Musicological Society of the Philippines, the City of Tagum's Tourism Council and the UP College of Music, the festival will be a week-long musical event participated in by some 550 artists that comprise rondalla and plucked-string groups from all over the world.

Held every three years, the international festival is now on its third run. It fulfills the aspiration for unity through the universality of music, said Ramon P. Santos, project director and president of the Musicological Society of the Philippines, in a press launch held recently at Barbara's in Intramuros.

The global tradition of plucked string is shared by the country through the rondalla, banduria and, which has been ingrained in the psyche of the Filipino people, almost survived three colonial epochs, and is now a distinct part of the general living tradition.

Santos was joined by Malou Jacob, executive director of NCCA; Vice Mayor Allan Rellon of Tagum City; and Alma Uy, chair of Tagum City's Tourism Council, who took turns reading their statements before the press.



RAMON Santos, Malou Jacob and Alma Uy



Shared musical tradition

The festival has drawn more participants, numbering about 30 than in the rondalla festivals in 2004 and 2007.

Participating countries include Russia, China, Singapore, Thailand, Mexico, Iran, India, Indonesia and Taiwan. The Greece International Music Council will also attend.

The festival will feature concerts, exhibition, outreach performances, international conference, seminars, workshops and other special related activities.

It will be highlighted by the participation of indigenous groups from Mindanao giving one performance in every concert. They will be a major feature in the festival's exhibit.

Gandaa ng Pagkakaisa reflections and provide the initial energy to the World Rondalla Society which will sustain the development of an important musical patrimony and at the same time promote global peace and understanding through a shared musical tradition.

Coupling of East and West

In her welcome remarks, NCCA director Malou Jacob said the festival was a "musical coupling" of the East and the West, an instrument for promoting global peace, strongly endorsed by the Music Committee, headed by Josie Ayala.

Vice Mayor Rellon gave an update on the preparations Tagum had undertaken to achieve the best result, which would go beyond the city with its advocacy for international understanding through the sharing of a common musical root that is the plucked string.

Alma Uy, spouse of the mayor of Tagum, said all systems went for the festival and all roads would lead to Tagum, the City of Palm Trees and the new home of festivals.

The festival shows Mindanao, through Tagum City as a venue of beauty and peace, a vibrant venue for international musical gathering promoting peace and understanding.

Different stylistics

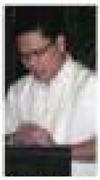
To the enjoyment of everyone, the UP Rondalla under the direction of Elena Ragosan superbly rendered finely selected and musical selections. The rondalla showed its versatility in render selections steeped in different stylistic veils, and add a non-plucked instrument such as the flute, from the traditional pieces and folk tunes to a classical standard and avant garde pieces.

The playing reflected the growth and development of the rondalla from the colonial era to the present, following a script read by Chingguy Bernardo, who hosted the launch.

The pieces were Dominic Salustiano's [illegible] No. 2; Alfredo Buenaventura's Philippine Medley No. 2; Tchaikovsky's Serenade for Strings, arranged by Celso Espejo; and "Pagpupilit," by Corazon Maceda.

For details, call 9266028 or 0920-9206987; e-mail: rondalaphil@yahoo.com; visit www.rondallafestival.com.ph.

University of the



TAGUM Vice Mayor Allan L. Rellon



Kabayaos hold concert to mark Evelio Javier's death anniversary

THE KABAYAOS Family Reunion, led by [illegible], will present a musical tribute to the late Gov. Evelio B. Javier on Feb. 11, 4:30 p.m., at the Binirayan Sports Complex, San Jose de Buenavista, Antique.

The concert will highlight the observance of the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Javier, one of the most prominent critics of martial law. Theme of this year's observance is "Pakapin nga Igpakabuhi naton ang Demokrasya. Evelio: Ang Bulig sa Kalinong, Kabuhi ng Kabuhayan Busanding Nasyon nga mga Pakabuo."

Various activities, including fun games for children, have been lined up. Most of the activities will be held at the Evelio B. Javier Freedom Park.

Other activities include a Mass, 21-km memorial marathon, fun run for scholarship, medical mission and candle-lighting ceremony.

Davao hosts NCCA Taboan literary arts festival

MINDANAO-BASED writers and the island group's literature will be the focus of this year's 3rd Taboan: International Writers Festival, Feb. 10-12, at Hotel Mandaya in Davao City.

Some 80 writers from different parts of the Philippines will converge for the three-day conference.

"The festival is intended for writers to appreciate the wealth of writing emerging from Mindanao," National Commission for Culture and the Arts-Subcommission on the Arts (NCCA-SCA) head and Philippine International Arts Festival director Ricardo de Ungria said.

Taboan will be attended by writers writing in the various Philippine languages as well as in English, and by three international representatives. De Ungria said this year the conference sessions, programs and cultural activities would highlight regional literature in recognition of the many indigenous peoples of Mindanao.

"Our intention is to make the focus of the Taboan different each year," he said.

Luzon and Visayas were in the limelight for the past two years; for 2011, he said, all eyes are on Mindanao.

Taboan is the contribution of the NCCA's National Committee on Literary Arts to the celebration of the Philippine International Arts Festival. This year's Taboan marks the completion of the first circuit of the archipelago's three major island groups.

The conference name was taken from the Cebuano word for "gathering," but the word taboan also means "trading at the market place." And Taboan, De Ungria said, is precisely that for the Filipino writer.

"The festival allows writers to come together and learn from each other's experiences and get updated on each other's projects and the latest developments in the literary scene," he said.

National Artist for Literature [illegible] Lumbera is the keynote speaker for Taboan 2011.

The conference sessions are grouped into four major categories. These are Native Voices, Literature and Others, Careers in Writing, and Care and Feeding of Young Writers.

Sessions under Native Voices include "Spirits of the Place: Local Myths and Folklore in Literature," "Lumad Literature in Mindanao," "Beyond Borders: Globalizing Local Writing and Literary Criticism and Native Literature."

Sessions under Literature and Others include [illegible] "The Painted Word: Visual Art and Literature", "The Sound Of The Word: Music And Literature"; and "Tag Team Writing: Collaborative Literature."

Sessions under Careers in Writing include "Come Together Under What Flag? Writers and Advocacies", "Writing Below The Belt: Erotica Today", "Spit and Polish: How to Sell Yourself in the Writers' Market"; and "What Do Writers Really Want, Abe?"

Sessions under Care and Feeding of Young Writers include "New Flash Writing Flash, Spec," "Teen and Fan Fiction", "Everybody Wants to Be a Soldier, Poet? Guiding Young Writers to Their Poetry"; and "Ako ang Nagwagi! Winning Literary Contests."

De Ungria said satellite activities for Taboan were held at DLSU, UST and Ateneo de Manila University.

There will be literary readings in Quezon City, Feb. 7, at Mag: Net Café; Feb. 8, Conspiracy Bar and Café; and Feb. 9, University of the Philippines-Diliman.

Outside NCR, Tingog Dimensions [illegible] program at Plaza Cinematheque [illegible], Face to Face at Plaza Cinematheque, will be today at Plaza Cinematheque in [illegible].

Poetry readings and performances will be held on Feb. 15 at [illegible], and on Feb. 16 at the Isabela National High School Quadrangle in Ilagan, Isabela.

In time for Baguio's Flower Festival, [illegible] Baguio will be holding [illegible] Poetry Reading for Arts Month 2011 on Feb. 24.



Feast of Bicol writing featured in litfests at DLSU, UST

First of two parts

Shirley O. Lua
Contributor

THE UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas (UST) and De La Salle University (DLSU) joined creative forces to host and organize a literary forum and performance readings on Bicol writers and writing from Bicol.

"A Performance Reading in Honor of Bienvenido N. Santos" took place in DLSU on January 19, while the forum reading on [illegible] was held at UST on Jan. 25.

The joint event was sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts in collaboration with the UST Santisimo, UST Literary Society, UST Thomasian Writers Guild and DLSU Bienvenido N. Santos Creative Writing Center (BNSCWC). It is one of the satellite activities of the 2011 Taboan: The Philippine Writers Festival which will be held in Davao City in February. Taboan is the literary arts component of the Philippine International Arts Festival, which calls for a celebration of culture and creativity centering on the theme "Ani ng Sining."

In his opening remarks on the Santos occasion honoring Bienvenido N. Santos, Br. Bernard Oca, FSC, DLSU vice chancellor for Lasallian mission and external relations, declared with conviction:

"To many, he (Santos) remains the sole chronicler of the Filipino American experience of the 20th century (the only one who got it right). He knew the experience firsthand, having lived, studied, and worked in the United States as a scholar, teacher, and diplomat. His keen observations of human behavior and his delicate sense of phrase capture on the page the sorrows and joys, the [illegible] and foibles of the 'Pinoys'—the first generation of Filipino immigrant workers in the United States forever trapped between the golden Philippines of their memory and the gray America of their reality."

The La Salle event is the first of the series of activities for this year organized by the Center to commemorate the birth anniversary of the writer whose name the Center carries with pride. The current director is Dr. Dinah [illegible].

Santos, or Manong Ben as he is fondly remembered, was one of the pensionados (government scholars) sent to the United States during the '30s-'40s. Santos was born in Tondo of Pampango parents but married Beatriz Nidea of Albay.

He spent much of life in Bicol, where he taught in Legazpi College and the University of Nueva Caceres in Naga City. His publications include the poetry collection "The Wounded Stag and Other Poems"; the short story anthologies "You Lovely People" and "Scent of Apples"; and novels such as "Villa Magdalena," "The Volcano" and "What the Hell For You Left Your Heart in San Francisco."

His fictions are haunting portraits and ironic articulations of the Filipinos' plight in the US, and of humanity's struggle to keep faith in a world of tenderness and defeats.

The limelight of the event was the performance-reading of poet Marjorie Evasco and the illustrious gentleman playwright and critic Isagani R. Cruz.

In his introduction to Evasco, poet Ronald Baytan remarked, "The commitment to language, to one's origins, to poetics, to truth and integrity, can only be summed up by the words kindness and love. These are the qualities that have endeared both Manong Ben and our reader [illegible] ... to generations of students and lovers of literature."

Evasco read selections from Santos' "The Wounded Stag." She had a treasured friendship with Manong Ben, when he was writer-in-residence at DLSU. She shared Manong Ben's letter with the audience, which said, "Thank God for poetry for its power to open wounds, and to heal. Poets are the dream men, aren't they? How long are you staying out this time? A fellow wanderer wants to know."

Evasco recalled that Manong Ben's most ardent wish was to return home—"to live the rest of (his) days in (his) old house in Albay." This sentiment reverberates in his poem "Window Voyage II," where the paper boat "floats on and on until the weight of the water sends him to [illegible] and sinks it slowly: a sad looking paper boat lying on its side; a long dead animal which will never come home."

Cruz delighted the audience with a clever performance of "Dear Tale," a sensitive nonfiction monologue he adapted and interpreted from Santos' memoir "Memory's Fictions" and correspondence. "Tale" refers to Filipino linguist Maria Lourdes Bautista, who was then dean of the College of Liberal Arts when Santos was with DLSU.

In one "scene," Cruz, wearing a fedora hat, mimicked the voice of Manong Ben, "My, Tish, I'm in love with your eyes, especially when they become more alive at fun... I wish I were half a century younger. But then, that would be 1938. You wouldn't have been born yet. Now that you have been born, I am half in love with you. I am half... of everything. Half Filipino, half American. Half Kapampangan, half Bicolano. Half Bicolano, half poet. Half short-story writer, half novelist. Half dirty old man, half saintly old man. Half old, half young. Half serious, half joking. All the time. Maybe half the time. Half."

Manong Ben up in heaven must have given a hearty chuckle, his eyes "little slits of fun and not just mere slits but bags, huge balls of fun" to see the audience's round of words spilling in the memories of friends and readers, and the overload of his heart washed in their bosom.

This occasion was graced by the presence of National Artist F. Sionil Jose and Malaysian poet laureate, Muhammad Haji Salleh.

To be continued next Monday

> Ben Santos' fictions are about humanity's struggle to keep faith in a world of tenderness and defeats

Instituto Cervantes showcases film series by Spain's Luis García Berlanga



"MARSHALL" and "Plácido"



"TODOS a la cárcel"

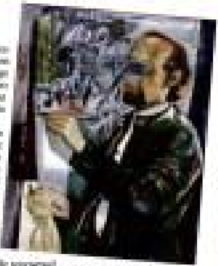


St. Scholastica's College holds four media-arts exhibits for Arts Month

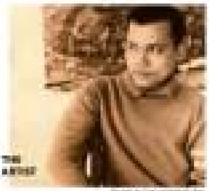
LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

Farewell, Fred–bon journey!

No one has contested the National Artist award bestowed on Federico Aguilar Alcuaz. In fact, to many observers, it is long overdue



"SELF-PORTRAIT"



THE ARTIST

One of most-awarded

POLITICS DESTROYING ARTS AND CULTURE

An outrageous appointment

Farewell Fred, Bon Journey

From page D1

Federico's siblings played various types of musical instruments.

Mariano urged the young Federico to concentrate on playing the cello, an instrument he learned to play competently, even landing some scholarships through his skill.

Federico started his elementary education at Alejandro Albert Elementary School on Espiritu Street and completed it at Padre Gomez Elementary School in Sampaloc when the family moved to F. Campa Street. He would sketch and draw endlessly. His studies were abruptly interrupted by World War II, and he later pursued his high-school education at San Beda College in Mendiola.

He thought of taking up law as a profession to make his father proud, but he couldn't give up painting, so he concurrently enrolled at the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts while pursuing a prelaw course in San Beda.

Among his mentors in painting were future National Artists Fernando Amorsolo and Guillermo Tolentino, Toribio Herrera, Dominador Castañeda and Genaro Bernardo.

Joaquin Perez, Ramon Ordoña and [illegible] Rugolina were [illegible], while future National Artist Napoleon Abueva was a classmate.

He took up law proper at the Ateneo College of Law on Padre Faura Street, Manila, and graduated in 1950. Meanwhile, he kept participating in art competitions, working in a studio on the Ateneo campus, where Fr. Thomas Cannon witnessed his talent and provided him with a workplace.

In 1953, he won 1st Prize at the University of the Philippines Art Competition. In 1954, he won 1st Prize at the Shell Art Competition and 2nd Prize at the 5th Annual Art Exhibition.

In 1955, he exhibited at the Philippine Art Gallery, the most prestigious art venue at that time. That year, with the help of Fernando Zobel, he received a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain to study in Madrid.

Based in Spain

In Spain, he decided to base himself in Barcelona, where the art scene was more robust. There, he held exhibits at the highly prestigious Sala [illegible] General, Museum of Contemporary Art in Madrid, being the youngest then at 24 to have exhibited there.

He also staged back-to-back exhibits at the Galerias Layetanas and the Galerias Manila in Barcelona. This was the year he decided to carry "Alcuaz" as nom de plume. It is Spanish custom to be known by one's first name followed by the family name, then the maternal name.

But Federico, or rather Federico Aguilar y Alcuaz, became Aguilar (was quite a common name in Spain, he decided he would be known as Federico Aguilar Alcuaz.

That same year, he met a winsome German woman named Ute [illegible] Schmitz, a business and languages student in Barcelona. The romance blossomed quickly; they married a few years later at the Iglesia de Santa Church in Barcelona.

They had three children: Christian Michael, the eldest, who for several years has been handling his father's business affairs; Andreas Frederic and Wolfgang Matthias.

La Pandada

It was in Barcelona that Alcuaz started flourishing as an artist. He became part of a group of artists who regularly met at La Pandada restaurant.

The regular informal gatherings were called *tertulias*. Here, the group discussed issues of common interest over good food, wines, cheeses, good bread—many of these items finding their way as subjects in the artist's still-life paintings.

The Pandada group had quite a stellar lineup, having been founded by noted artists Santiró, Grau and Picasso, trailblazers in the modern art movement rebelling against the Salon artists in Spain.

Alcuaz and his contemporaries, notably Miralles, Aligrana and Aragonés, began making a mark for themselves with their strong expressionist colors, deep emotions, highly textured surfaces.

He stayed in Europe for nine years, until 1964, when a major car accident caused him to return to Manila to recuperate.

He joined the robust Manila art scene from 1964 to 1969, after which he found himself constantly shuttling between Manila, Barcelona, Germany and New York. He maintained a 350-sq-m studio in Barcelona on the fourth floor of a building on Aragones Street, which he kept as his main studio away from Manila until 1997.

Tapestries, portraits, 'Tres Marias,' landscapes

For the next 30 years since 1969, Alcuaz maintained a frenetic pace as an artist and came up with some of his stunning and most exciting works of art.

He flew regularly to Czechoslovakia, particularly to Brno, just outside Prague, where he worked on creating tapestries.

He would fly to New York to attend art events or to paint the intriguing cityscape.

Whenever he was in Manila, he would work on a major project. This was his portraiture, capturing Manila's glitterati and literati on canvas. In the '70s, he started painting a series of women in Filipiniana attire, which he called his "Tres Marias," a theme akin to the "Three Graces" several European masters have been painting since the Renaissance.

Another favorite subject was landscapes. He developed a keen interest in it, thanks to Toribio Herrera. He started with the *barong-barong* of Paris and moved on to painting New York's rooftops, the gray winter of Central Park, Barcelona, Bavaria and other cities he had visited.

Noted art historian and critic Rod. Paras-Perez described him as "the epic landscapist of the urban landscape," capturing wide-angle views of Manila, Makati, the Barcelona skyline, Binondo, or the Manila Bay sunset.

Abstracts, 'Barcelona' series

Alcuaz also painted very powerful abstracts on canvas and paper, using oil, watercolor and mixed media. These were a blend of geometric or planar shapes, patterns, line, masses and colors, which he presented in various arrangements combining his modernist and surrealist concerns.

Some enterprising "artists" and unscrupulous businessmen have been attempting to clone some of these abstracts, but those familiar with the master know that the confidence, strength in composition, and spontaneity in execution are characteristics very difficult to replicate.

In 2008, Alcuaz and his family unveiled a collection of never-before-exhibited works called the "Barcelona" series, some of which showing recognizable images. It usually had a still-life arrangement on the foreground, highlighting fruits, lemons, wine glasses and goblets, jars. On the background, there would be a landscape featuring cloud formations, palm trees, a mountain, window and doors suggesting summer houses. Most of these were finished in the artist's studio on Aragones Street.

Study in contrasts

Alcuaz has had exhibits in leading galleries in Spain, the United States, Germany, Poland, France, Japan, Netherlands, Singapore. His works are included in the collection of some 20 museums and cultural institutions in the world, including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Barcelona, Museum of Contemporary Art in Madrid, Museum of Modern Art of Krakow, Museum of Modern Art of Warsaw, Philippine Cultural Museum of the Netherlands.



Alcuaz was a study in contrasts. Although he conducted himself with great decorum like an Old World gentleman and could be withdrawn at times, he was a prankster compared.

He was known to have pulled pranks at other guests at hotel lobbies, and crept under the table to pour sugar into a lady's shoe who had taken it off in a formal function. He could also be found playing a battery-powered portable keyboard at fine and hotel lobbies, to the amusement of some guests the consternation of others.

He could recite off lines of poetry he learned from his school days, and just as easily forget the name of the Walled City of Manila (Intramuros). To some he could be a pest, but to many he was charming and most charismatic.

The National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines unanimously decided to bestow on him the National Artist award in 2009. This was most certainly deserved and commended. However, politics reared its ugly head when some quarters using the leverage of "presidential prerogative" under the Arroyo regime took out one of the very deserving awardees from the list of four recommended by the NCCA and the CCP and inserted four new names.

No one contested the award being given to Alcuaz. In fact, many were even wondering why it took so long for Alcuaz to be given such a recognition.

We can only hope the new dispensation would have the willpower to implement the recommendations of the NCCA and the CCP and finally grant the award to those who underwent the process and were duly recommended.

But no matter, Alcuaz is one monument of a man. In the hearts and minds of the Filipino people, he will always be National Artist.

The remains of Federico Aguilar Alcuaz lies in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapel. The burial will be on Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the Loyola Memorial in Marikina City.

The author is executive editor and publisher of Contemporary Art Philippines magazine, and author of the book "Federico Aguilar Alcuaz." He has worked closely with the family of Alcuaz on several of the artist's major exhibits and retrospectives. E-mail him at jackfrancisco@gmail.com.

An outrageous appointment

From page D1

Scandalous appointment

Time for change



Artists remember Edsa 1986 in Sining Kamalig exhibit

Manila Contemporary mounts 'Raptus' by Lui Medina





BETSY WESTENDORP IN DAVAO

Lolita Valderrama Savage in homecoming exhibit at Ayala Museum



LOLITA Valderrama Savage

Viola at GSIS Museum



"LAND of Opportunity," by Leonardo Aguinaldo

Aguinaldo at Serendra

FROM BOOK TO FILM

Devil comes psychologically alive in 'The Rite'



ANTHONY Hopkins as Father Lucas and Colin O'Donoghue as Michael Kovak in New Line Cinema's psychological thriller "The Rite"

Psychological, realistic

Intense portrayal

Entertainment

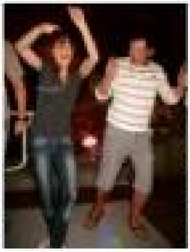
Editor: Emmie G. Velarde

Did You Know...

PROCEEDS of the recent Metro Manila Film Festival will be divided, thus: 30 percent to the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation; 20 each to the Film Academy of the Philippines and Motion Picture Anti-Film Piracy Council; 5 each to the Film Development Council of the Philippines and Optical Media Board. This was finalized by the executive committee in its last meeting, said member Bis Canodigan. Bayani San Diego Jr.

Stumbling into a surprise bash for Brillante Mendoza

By Ruben V. Nepales
Los Angeles Correspondent



PRICELESS SIGHT: Isabelle Huppert and Brillante "Dante" Mendoza dance to "Spaghetti Song." PHOTOS BY RUBEN NEPALES

LAST Friday evening, on our second week of vacation in Manila, we ran into Rene Durian, a former classmate at the University of Santo Tomas, at a reunion of several ex-staffers of The Varsitarian, UST's student paper. After the dinner, hosted by Gigi Bacoloro-Ragasa at her home, Rene hitched a ride with us and asked to be dropped off at the residence of director Brillante "Dante" Mendoza.

When we got there, it turned out that a last-minute cast party for "Prey," Brillante's film with French actress Isabelle Huppert, was ongoing. It was all impromptu. We learned that the quick decision to hold a bash was on account of Isabelle leaving for home the next day. The party had started late, at 11 p.m. Cast and crew came straight from the shoot. Of course, we invited ourselves in.

Party mood

Out on Dante's beautiful terrace, Isabelle, a wisp of a woman in a blue top, skinny jeans and flat shoes, blended in with the other merrymakers. Yes, everyone was in a mood to celebrate. They had just finished an arduous three-week shoot that took them to several provinces, including Rizal, Batangas, Zambales and Quezon.

Isabelle plays one of the kidnap victims of the separatist Abu Sayyaf Group. The story, written by Dante and Butch Parung, is inspired by the real-life kidnapping of missionary Gracia Burnham in 2001.

In her brief remarks, Isabelle, two-time Cannes Film Festival Best Actress, paid tribute to Dante, whom she described as "a genius." She also heaped praises on her Filipino co-actors, the hospitable Filipino people and the country itself. "I love the Philippines!" she exclaimed.

As we chatted with her, Isabelle again gushed about Dante and her cast mates, most of whom were present—Ronnie Lazaro, Isabel Lopez, Sid Lucero, Joel Torre, Rustica Carpio, Raymond Bagatsing, Catherine Cornell, Evelyn Vargas, Mon Confiado, Bot Ducos, Christopher King, Mark Naclo, Timothy Mabalot, Nanny Kuliska, Bernard Palanca and Rosy.

It was good to see Joel again, who updated us on "Kadin," his

TURN TO E3

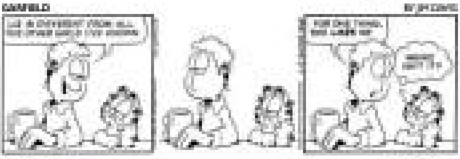


RONNIE Lazaro, Isabel Lopez and Joel Torre

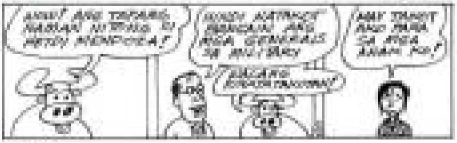


ISABELLE Huppert, Brillante "Dante" Mendoza and producer Didier Costet

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS



A. UPIN



PUGAD BABOY — BY PM. JUNIOR



DICK TRACY



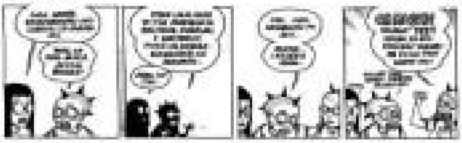
LOVELOCKS



BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



KIKO MACHINE

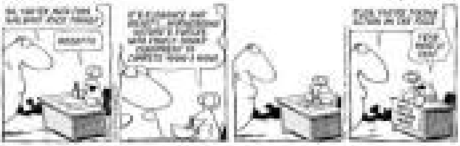


BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON





SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY



TULDOK



CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

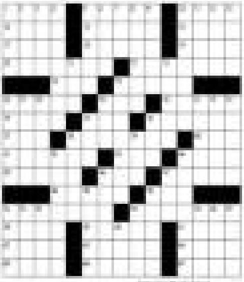
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

					8	2		6
7			3					
			1	6		5	8	
1	8			3			5	
6		7				8		3
	4			9			7	2
	9	6		4	1			
					5			1
5		4	9					

Difficulty Level ■

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Staying in character, stench and all



Launching series

No pressure



















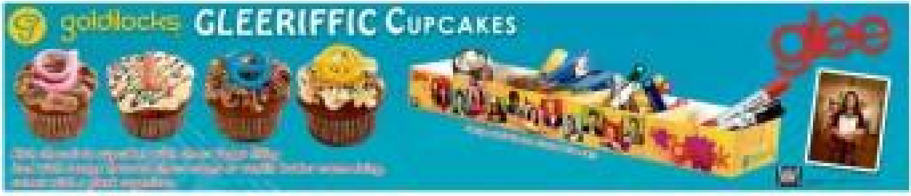
Stumbling into ...



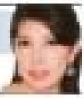


Ang Pinakaaabangang Kuwento ng Pag-ibig,
Pangarap at Pag-asa...
TV 5
Babaeng
HAMPASLUPA
SA DIREKSYON NINA ENRICO S. QUIZON AT BB. JOYCE BERNAL
SIMULA MAMAYANG 9PM • PAGKATAPOS NG WILLING WILLIE

ENTERTAINMENT



Are the stars in celebs' favor?



DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

TO WELCOME the Year of the Rabbit, I thought of asking Marissa Gaskell, the lo-renter "spiritual advisor"/consultant of the stars, top business honchos and politicos, for her predictions for some celebrities. I have consulted Marissa several times and her words of wisdom have never failed to work for me.

Marissa hosts her own radio show every Sunday on DWIZ (11 a.m.-12 noon) and writes a newspaper column thrice a week. She is more of a guide than a fortune teller.

Since rabbits are known to be prolific breeders, may we all become like them and be productive (not necessarily reproductive) this 2011. And while we are at it, let's keep in mind the teaching of the most famous rabbit, Bugs Bunny: "Don't take life too seriously because we will never get out of it alive anyway."

Love it and live it, Rabbit!

Baron Geisler

"He is supposed to have a good year, being born in the year of the dog. He is also likely to get support and help from older people. He won't be able to win in any of his legal cases, though. Warning: His long illness may lead to a serious heart attack."

Jillian Ward

"It will be a lucky year. She will be very popular and will have a lot of endorsements, projects and awards. But she should guard against robbery, especially at home."

Jovit Baldivino

"It will be a lucky, very busy year. A year of expansion, recognition and good prospects. Money and popularity are very strong. He is likely to face some family problems, though, particularly because of health issues. It is not advisable for him to enter into a relationship yet."

Edu Manzano

"This is his year. Should he put up or expand a business, he will receive a lot of help and support. But he should look after his personal belongings when traveling and take good care of his health, particularly his liver and gallbladder."

Arnel Pineda

"It will be a busy year. There will be lots of opportunities and hard work. But he will have as much enemies as supporters. He should exercise judgment when dealing with others and should be careful



"LOTS of endorsements, projects and awards" for Jillian Ward



EUGENE Domingo: "may meet someone special."

Are the stars...



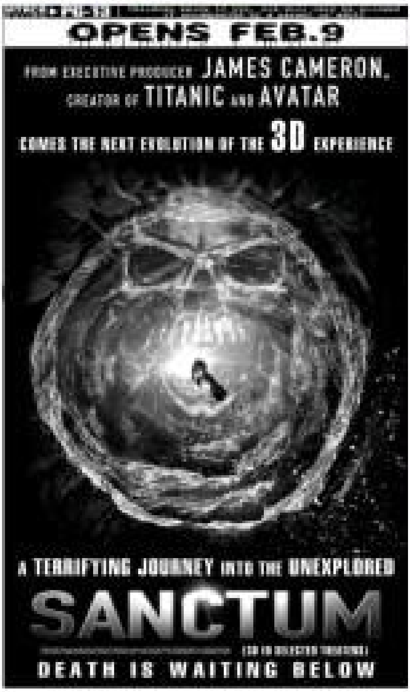
Eugene Domingo

Kim Chiu and Gerald Anderson

More predictions

Unlikely lovers










Dahil ang
MAGMAHAL
natural sa Kapuso
Handog namin ay mga bagong programang inyong ibigin
I YOU PARE
Ngayong gabi na sa GMA Telebabad
Charice Home for Valentine's
February 13
8:30pm
NITA NEGRITA
February 14
sa Dramarama sa Hapon
PALAYOK
February 20
sa Dramarama sa Hapon
SISID
Soon on GMA
MORAL
Soon on GMA
Happy Kapuso Month!

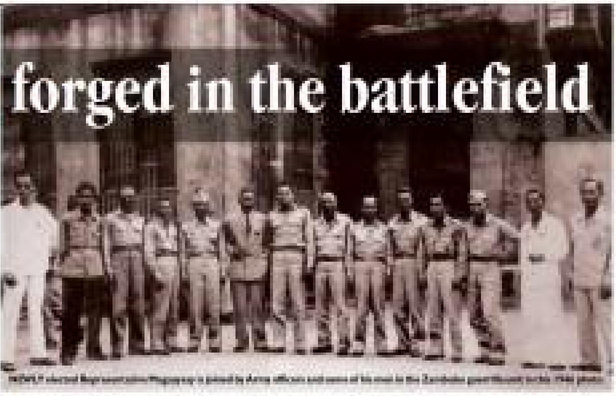
Safer Internet Day is Feb. 8
WATCH G&T for our "Families and the Internet" series, a guide on how to ensure proper use of the Internet among the young and how to safeguard them from cyber predators and bullies. Parents, teachers and students who would like to join our free Internet Safety forum, call [illegible] or e-mail learning@inquirer.com.ph for details.

LEARNING
Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso
Email: learning@inquirer.com.ph

Gary Granada sings math in Eureka! / G3
WWII True Stories Contest for high school students / G4

A TRUE WAR STORY

A friendship forged in the battlefield



TODAY, elected Representative Magsaysay is joined by Army officers and some of his men in the Zambales guerrilla unit in this 1946 photo.

TO LAUNCH this year's World War II True Stories Contest, which is cosponsored by the Philippine Veterans Bank and the Philippine Daily Inquirer, we feature here a little known story involving the late President Ramon Magsaysay as captain of a resistance group. Now on its third year, the contest is important on two fronts: (1) it acquaints high school students with a tragic part of our history that gets no more than a mention in school, and (2) it gives veterans and other war survivors a chance to tell their stories. For more on the contest, turn to Page G4.

By Linda B. Bolido



MAGSAYSAY as wartime captain

WHEN the annual Ramon Magsaysay awards were handed out in August, the family of the late Philippine President, led by his children Ramon Jr. and Mila Valenzuela, was joined by two American guests—siblings Jack Merrill and Carol Anne Merrill Miller of Modesto, California.

Jun and Mila met the siblings for the first time, although Jun's son Paco had gone to see the Merrills in the United States a few months before. But the connection between the two families went way back to the World War II.

Jack and Carol are the grandchildren of Col. Gyles Merrill, an American military officer who escaped the Bataan Death March and organized one of the major resistance groups in Luzon.

Chris Schaefer, in his book "Bataan Diary," said Merrill and his group fought the Japanese primarily from the jungles of Zambales from Sept. 1, 1942.

Merrill, who was reportedly about to retire before the outbreak of WWII, knew Magsaysay because the Filipino was superintendent in Zambales of the Try Tran Bus Co., whose vehicles were commandeered to evacuate Filipino and American soldiers from Bataan to Zambales and other parts of Luzon.

Magsaysay would later join Merrill's resistance group in Zambales with the rank of captain.

The Filipino and American military officers apparently so liked working together that Magsaysay stayed with his wartime buddy when other American commanders decided to operate on their own.

According to Schaefer, as the war wound down and Gen. Douglas MacArthur made his way back to the Philippines to make good on his promise, "I shall return," Merrill tried to call a meeting in his headquarters with the various resistance groups to prepare for the return of the US senior military commander in the Far East.

But the other officers, used to running their own shows, "refused to recognize Colonel Merrill's authority," Schaefer said in a message posted on the Philippine Scouts Heritage Society website. "Captain Magsaysay, however, continued to work under Colonel Merrill, and his men effectively drove the Japanese garrison off the Zambales coast before MacArthur's 11th Corps landed there."

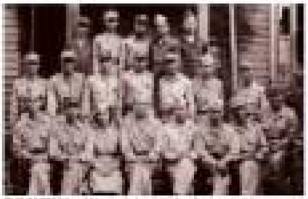
Despite the friendship, Jun said his father adhered closely to what he considered was the proper way of doing things.

The younger Magsaysay, who, with his siblings Teresita (deceased) and Mila, were evacuated with their mother Luz to Zambales, recalled a time when the future President was sent back to Manila to acquire medicine and other supplies for the guerrillas in Zambales.

When the captain delivered the supplies to Merrill, he (Magsaysay) insisted that the American sign receipts to indicate that he received from Pl. Magsaysay's code name, the exact quantities and description of the material supplies given by Filipino doctors and sympathizers from Manila. Captain Magsaysay reportedly said, "Sir, I must show these receipts to the donors who risked discovery and probable arrest for supplying us. Otherwise, they will stop doing so and you and me will be suspected of using the supply for our own needs, or worse, that we sold them to earn money for ourselves." Thereafter, Merrill signed every delivery of supplies from the Filipino officer.

This could have been one of the reasons, as Jeff Jardine wrote in his column for the Modesto Bee, when MacArthur asked for a list of reliable Filipino civilians, one of them to become governor of Zambales province, "Merrill gave the

FRIENDSHIP G4



THE CAPTAIN and his comrades at the headquarters of the Zambales Military District



JACK Merrill and his sister Carol Miller visit the tomb of their grandfather's wartime buddy at the North Cemetery in Manila.

Playgrounds for the MIND

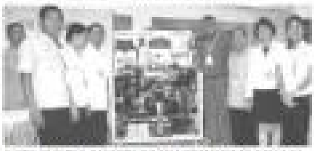
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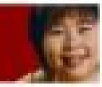
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Global Filipino schools

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A friendship forged . . .

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